IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system for authorizing a licensed activity associated with a software program, the system comprising:

a license enforcement server associated with an operating system of a network-critical machine, the network-critical machine being connected to an interconnected network;

at least one database associated with the license enforcement server;

at least one computation device connected to the interconnected network;

at least one instruction set for communicating with the license enforcement server and receiving a message from the license enforcement server indicating a state of authorization associated with the licensed activity, the at least one instruction set being associated with the at least one computational device;

a namespace tree, the namespace tree uniquely identifying the licensed activity; and

at least one license enforcement gateway communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server;

wherein the license enforcement server connects to the license enforcement gateway to synchronize and validate at least one of the database and the namespace tree;

wherein an alarm is created if the state of authorization includes an unauthorized state;

wherein:

the license enforcement server periodically confirms the validity of at least one license according to at least one of a date, a number of launches, and a number of logged hours; and

the license enforcement server authorizes licenses without communicating with the license enforcement gateway between the periodic confirmations;

wherein the licensed activity is prevented if the state of authorization includes the unauthorized state.

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary domain control server.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the network-critical machine is an address server.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the system further comprising:
       a second network-critical machine associated with a second license enforcement server; and
       a second database associated with the second license enforcement server.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the license enforcement server is integrated with the operating system.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A license enforcement server system comprising:
       a license enforcement server associated with an operating system of a network-critical machine, the license enforcement server including:
       an instruction set for interfacing with at least one database associated with at least one software license;
       an instruction set for receiving a communication through an interconnected network from at least one computation device connected to the interconnected network, the communication being associated with a request for permission to perform a licensed activity associated with a licensed software;
       a namespace tree, the namespace tree uniquely identifying the licensed activity;

an instruction set for determining a state of permission to perform the licensed activity associated with a licensed software; and

an instruction set for sending a message through the interconnected network to the computation device, the message being associated with the state of permission to perform the licensed activity;

wherein at least one license enforcement gateway is communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server;

wherein the license enforcement server connects to the license enforcement gateway to synchronize and validate at least one of the database and the namespace tree;

wherein an alarm is created if the state of permission includes an unauthorized state;

wherein:

the license enforcement server periodically confirms the validity of at least one license according to at least one of a date, a number of launches, and a number of logged hours; and

the license enforcement server authorizes licenses without communicating with the license enforcement gateway between the periodic confirmations;

wherein the licensed activity is prevented if the state of permission includes the unauthorized state.

9. (Previously Presented) The license enforcement server system of claim 8 wherein the license enforcement server is integrated with the operating system of the network-critical machine.

10. (Previously Presented) The license enforcement server system of claim 8 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary domain control server.

11. (Previously Presented) The license enforcement server system of claim 8 wherein the network-critical machine is an address server.

12. (Previously Presented) The license enforcement server system of claim 8, wherein

the namespace tree is associated with the at least one software license.

13   (Currently Amended) A computational device connected to an interconnected network, the computational device comprising:

an instruction set for communicating with a license enforcement server associated with an operating system of a network-critical machine, the communication comprising a request for a permission to perform a licensed activity and a return message associated with a status of the permission to perform the licensed activity; and

an instruction set for performing the licensed activity, the computational device selectively performing the licensed activity using the instruction set for performing the licensed activity;

wherein at least one license enforcement gateway is communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server;

wherein a namespace tree uniquely identifies the licensed activity;

wherein the license enforcement server connects to the license enforcement gateway to synchronize and validate the namespace tree;

wherein an alarm is created if a state of authorization includes an unauthorized state;

wherein:

the license enforcement server periodically confirms the validity of at least one license according to at least one of a date, a number of launches, and a number of logged hours; and

the license enforcement server authorizes licenses without communicating with the license enforcement gateway between the periodic confirmations;

wherein the licensed activity is prevented if the state of authorization includes the unauthorized state.

14.   (Previously Presented) The computational device of claim 13 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary domain control server.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computational device of claim 13 wherein the

network-critical machine is an address server.

16   (Currently Amended) A method for authorizing a licensed activity associated with a computational device connected to an interconnected network, the method comprising:
         poling a license enforcement server associated with the operating system of a network-critical machine;
         selectively determining the permissibility of the licensed activity associated with the computational device connected to the interconnected network;
         sending a message associated with the permissibility of the licensed activity to the computational device; and
         selectively performing the licensed activity;
         wherein at least one license enforcement gateway is communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server;
         wherein a namespace tree uniquely identifies the licensed activity;
         wherein the license enforcement server connects to the license enforcement gateway to synchronize and validate the namespace tree;
         wherein an alarm is created if a state of authorization includes an unauthorized state;
         wherein:
                 the license enforcement server periodically confirms the validity of at least
                 one license according to at least one of a date, a number of launches, and a
                 number of logged hours; and
                 the license enforcement server authorizes licenses without communicating
                 with the license enforcement gateway between the periodic confirmations;
                 wherein the licensed activity is prevented if the state of authorization includes the
unauthorized state.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary domain control server.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the network-critical

machine is an address server.

19   (Currently Amended) An operating system with an integrated license enforcement server, the operating system comprising:

an instruction set for interfacing with at least one database associated with software licenses;

an instruction set for receiving a communication through an interconnected network from at least one computation device connected to the interconnected network, the communication being associated with a request for permission to perform a licensed activity associated with a licensed software;

an instruction set for determining a state of permission to perform the licensed activity associated with a licensed software; and

an instruction set for sending a message through the interconnected network to the computation device, the message being associated with the state of permission to perform the licensed activity;

wherein at least one license enforcement gateway is communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server;

wherein a namespace tree uniquely identifies the licensed activity;

wherein the license enforcement server connects to the license enforcement gateway to synchronize and validate at least one of the database and the namespace tree;

wherein an alarm is created if the state of permission includes an unauthorized state;

wherein:

the license enforcement server periodically confirms the validity of at least one license according to at least one of a date, a number of launches, and a number of logged hours; and

the license enforcement server authorizes licenses without communicating with the license enforcement gateway between the periodic confirmations;

wherein the licensed activity is prevented if the state of permission includes the unauthorized state.

20.   (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 19 wherein the operating system is associated with a network-critical machine.

21.   (Previously Presented) The operating system of claim 19, the operating system further comprising:

a link conjoining the operability of the operating system to the operability of the license enforcement server.

22.   (Currently Amended) A method for acquiring a license to perform a licensed activity with a license enforcement server, the license enforcement server being associated with a network-critical machine, the method comprising:

selectively requesting a license from a remote system, the remote system communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server associated with the network-critical machine, the license establishing at least one condition for performing the licensed activity;

determining the availability of the license with the license enforcement server associated with the network-critical machine, and

selectively authorizing the licensed activity based on the at least one condition for performing the licensed activity established by the license;

wherein at least one license enforcement gateway is communicatively coupled to the license enforcement server;

wherein a namespace tree uniquely identifies the licensed activity;

wherein the license enforcement server connects to the license enforcement gateway to synchronize and validate the namespace tree;

wherein an alarm is created if a state of authorization includes an unauthorized state;

wherein:

the license enforcement server periodically confirms the validity of at least one license according to at least one of a date, a number of launches, and a number of logged hours, and

the license enforcement server authorizes licenses without communicating with the license enforcement gateway between the periodic confirmations; wherein the licensed activity is prevented if the state of authorization includes the unauthorized state.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the network-critical machine is a primary domain control server.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the remote system is the license enforcement gateway communicatively coupled with the license enforcement server associated with the network-critical machine, the license enforcement gateway being communicatively coupled with the network-critical machine through a global network.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 22, the method further comprising:
receiving a request for permission to perform the licensed activity from a client device, the request being received by the license enforcement server; and
determining the status of the license to perform the licensed activity.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the license enforcement server is integrated with an operating system associated with the network-critical machine.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the namespace tree is organized utilizing data associated with at least one of vendors, categories of software, products, versions of the products, and licensing modeled data associated with the products.

28.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the license enforcement server serves licenses associated with software from a plurality of vendors.

29.   (Cancelled)

30.   (Cancelled)

31.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the license enforcement server communicates with the license enforcement gateway information associated with at least one of a list of licenses, data regarding use of a particular license, requests for receiving new licenses, requests for receiving updates to existing licenses, alarms associated with piracy, and alarms associated with a disabling of a license.

32.   (Cancelled)